

CJCC Presentation

MCPD Crime Laboratory
Forensic Biology Unit Backlog

CURRENT DNA TECHNOLOGY

— *STRs (Short Tandem Repeats)* —

- Blood, semen, saliva – body fluids
- “Touch” DNA samples (LCN)
 - ↑ caseload
 - ↑ QA requirements
 - Mandates higher quality of staff
- CODIS (Combined D_{NA} Index System)

CODIS – DNA DATABANK

— National Searchable Databank —

- Links unsolved cases to:
 - Convicted offenders, solved cases, unsolved cases
- Contains casework & convicted offender profiles
- Managed at State & National levels
- CODIS access is a privilege
 - Mandatory requirements for participation
 - Requires Laboratory accreditation

DNA IN THE COURTROOM

— The CSI Effect —

■ Issues

- Attorneys & juries expect DNA
- Criminal justice system pressured to comply
- Reliance on unneeded forensic exams
- Workforce education

■ Impacts

- ↑ caseload
- Wasted resources
- No forensic case approach

CURRENT BACKLOG

(AS OF 1/6/05)

■ 196 cases

■ New cases submitted in 2003	178
■ New cases submitted in 2004	244
■ % change 2003 – 2004	37% ↑
■ Projected % change 2004 – 2005	39% ↑

■ Technology impact

- LCN detection & links possible

COURT DEADLINES

- Discovery requires 30 day notice
 - Circuit Court – meeting deadlines when SAO provides sufficient notice
 - District Court – cannot meet
 - Juvenile Court – can meet only if:
 - Immediate notification of case by SAO
 - Proper evidence submitted immediately

FORENSIC BIOLOGY STAFFING

- Turnover
- Lab space limitations
- Lack of fully qualified examiner applicants
 - Competition high
 - Issues – salary, benefits & working conditions

FORENSIC BIOLOGIST EXAMINER TASKS

— Three to Four Week Batch Process —

- Evidence screening/processing
- DNA testing and data interpretation
- Report writing
- Full technical case file reviews
- Court testimony

FORENSIC BIOLOGIST EXAMINER TASKS

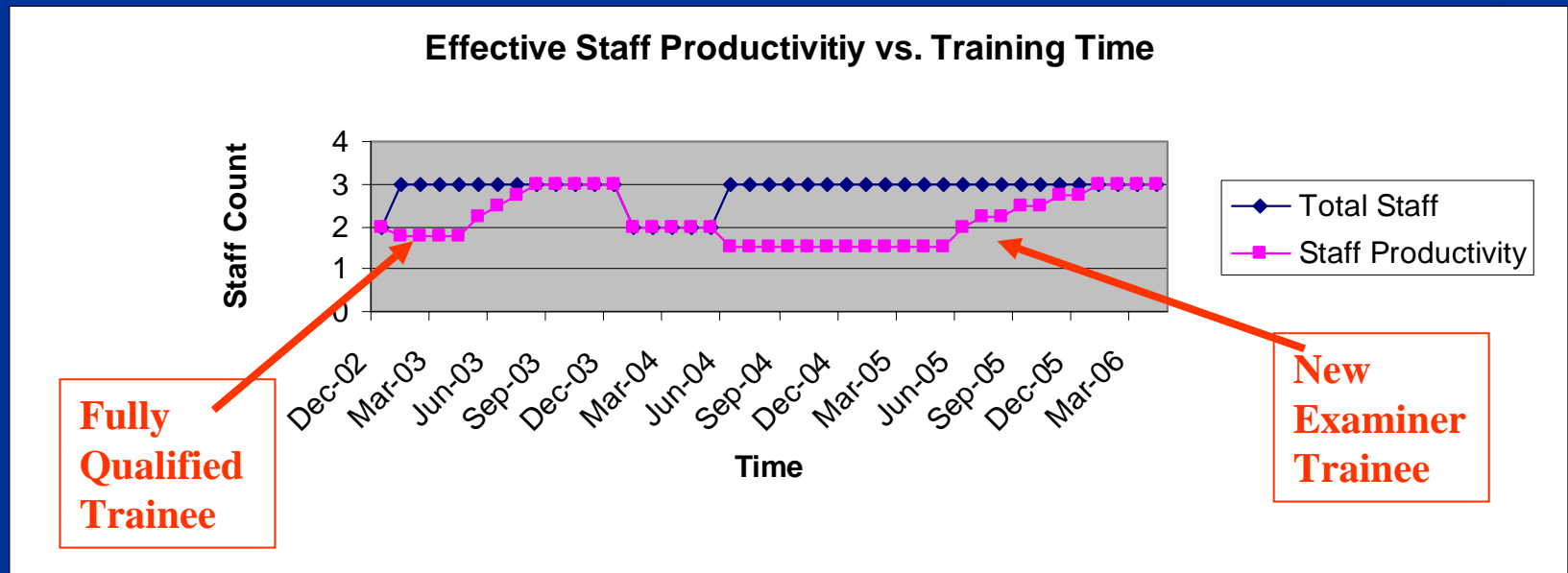
(continued)

- **QA / QC**
 - **Laboratory maintenance**
 - Inventory control
 - Equipment sterilization/preparation
 - Reagent preparation
 - Accreditation / audit requirements/participation
- **Customer interaction**
- **Discovery motion compliance**

Hiring Impact

— Decreased Productivity for 7-18 Months —

Absorbing a “Fully Qualified” examiner ~ 7 months
Training a New Examiner ~ 18 months
(90 case reports)



FORENSIC BIOLOGIST TECHNICIAN TASKS

— Getting More For Your Money —

- Evidence screening/processing*
- DNA testing*
- QA / QC
 - Laboratory maintenance
 - Inventory control
 - Equipment sterilization/preparation
 - Reagent preparation
 - Accreditation & audit requirements*
- Customer interaction*
- Discovery motion compliance

* Some tasks technician suitable

IMMEDIATE & SHORT TERM SOLUTIONS

■ Immediate

- Fund technician position
- Allocate additional HQ space for lab - office area for 6
- Change current office space to lab space

■ Short Term

- Fund fully qualified examiner and technician positions

■ Cost / Impact

- Fiscally manageable, immediate benefit
- Limited negative personnel impact
- Grant funds potentially available

ULTIMATE SOLUTIONS

- New Forensic Laboratory
 - Co-locate Crime Lab, Forensic Services Section, Evidence Control
- Equipment & Automation
- Additional personnel & services
- Changes in court deadlines
- Changes in personnel regulations / collective bargaining agreements